

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the following paragraphs of the specification:

[0044] The extension member 104 of the scribe tool 100 is shown by itself in FIGS. 4-7. The extension member 104 is preferably an ~~elongated~~ elongate member having a cross-section, as shown in FIG. 6, that generally extends between its opposite longitudinal ends 128 and, like the scribe member 102, is preferably fabricated as a single monolithic molded component of plastic or metal. Additionally, the extension member 104 preferably has a flat top 130, a flat bottom 132, and opposite sides 134. The sides 134 of the extension member 104 preferably taper toward each other as they extend upward between the bottom 132 and top 130 of the extension member to facilitate easy removal of the extension member 104 from a two-part mold during its formation. One of the longitudinal ends 128 of the extension member 104 is preferably provided with an attachment portion 136.

[0045] The attachment portion 136 of the extension member 104 preferably comprises an opening 138 that extends vertically from the top 130 to the bottom 132 of the extension member. The opening 138 preferably has a partial frustoconical surface 140 that joins with an adjacent slot portion 142. The partial frustoconical surface 140 tapers toward itself as it extends upward from the bottom 132 to the top 130 of the extension member 104. The slot portion 142 has a length that extends along the longitudinal direction of the extension

member 104 and a width that extends perpendicular to the sides 134 of the extension member. The length of the slot portion 142 is preferably greater than the slot portion's width. Additionally, the slot portion 142 preferably slopes lengthwise away from the partial frustoconical surface 140, while also expanding widthwise, as the slot portion extends upward from the bottom 132 to the top 130 of the extension member 104. This configuration of the attachment portion 136, like the overall configuration of the extension member ~~104 facilitates 104,~~ facilitates the easy removal of the extension member from a two-part mold during its formation.

[0046] The tile engagement member 106 preferably comprises separate upper ~~portion 144~~ and lower 146 portions, both of which are preferably formed of plastic material via two-part molds. The upper portion 144 is shown by itself in FIGS. 8-10 and preferably comprises a generally frustoconical wall portion 148, a top wall portion 150, and a plurality of locking tabs 152. The frustoconical wall portion 148 preferably tapers toward its center axis slightly as it extends upward from the locking tabs 152 to the top wall portion 150, so as to accommodate the draft angles necessary for molded production. The top wall portion 150 preferably extends radially inward from the top of the frustoconical wall portion 148 and has a generally cylindrical central opening 154. A raised annular rim 156 preferably protrudes upward from the top wall portion 150. The bottom side of the top wall portion 150 preferably comprises a recessed annular rim 158 and a ~~frustoconical~~ frustoconically sloped cam surface 160. The recessed annular rim 158 is

positioned immediately adjacent the central opening 154 of the top wall portion 150 and is preferably ~~planer~~ planar. The sloped cam surface 160 of the top wall portion 150 preferably tapers radially inward as it extends upward from the frustoconical wall portion 148 to the recessed annular rim 158.

[0050] Each leg portion 204 is preferably attached to the upper portion 200 of the locking member 108 by a relatively thin bridge portion 212. Additionally, each leg portion 204 forms an actuation portion 214 as it extends downward. Beneath the actuation portions 214, each leg portion 204 extends radially outward from the main outer surface 192 of the locking member 108 in a manner forming a ~~cam portion 116~~ cam portion 216. The ~~cam portion 116~~ cam portion 216 of each leg portion 204 is preferably T-shaped, as viewed from above, in a manner such that the radially outer most part of the cam portion is wider than the spacing between the side wall portions 202 of the locking member 108 and in a manner forming a pair of bearing surfaces 218. The upper and radially outer most portion of each cam portion 216 has a rounded edge that forms a cam surface 220. Each cam surface 220 preferably increases in radius from its middle toward its opposite longitudinal ends. Finally, an arched recess 222 preferably extends radially outward from the inner most part of each of the cam portions 216 and upward from the bottom surface 196 of the locking member 108.

[0057] With the leg portions 204 of the locking member 108 deflected as shown in FIG. 24, the cam surfaces 220 of the locking member are disengaged with the

sloped cam surface 160 of the upper portion 144 of the tile engagement member 106. This allows the locking member 108 to move upward relative to the tile engagement member 106, at least until the bearing surfaces 208 of the side wall portions 202 of the locking member engage against the recessed annular rim 158 of the upper portion 144 of the tile engagement member. By moving upward relative to the tile engagement member 106, the distance between the upper portion 200 of the locking member 108 and the raised annular rim 156 of the tile engagement member becomes slightly greater than the distance between the top 130 and bottom 132 of the extension member 104. As such, the extension member 104 is no longer clamped against the tile engagement member 106 by the locking member 108 and is therefore free to slideably move relative to both the tile engagement member and the locking member. Additionally, the extension member 104 and the locking member 108 are then ~~allowed~~ able to pivot together relative to the tile engagement member 106. Thus, simply by squeezing the actuation portions 214 of the locking member 108 toward each other, the scribe member 102 of the scribing tool 100 can be moved toward or away from the tile engagement member 106 and can be simultaneously pivoted thereabout.

[0062] The scribing process preferably begins by aligning the straight edge 122 of the scribe member 102 of the scribing tool 100 with the boundary perimeter 312 that partially defines the space 306 onto which a tile is sought to be placed. Once aligned, the person using the scribe tool 100 holds the scribe member 102

in place with one hand, while using his or her other hand to squeeze the actuation portions 214 of the locking member 108 toward each other. With the actuation portions 214 squeezed and the scribe member 102 held in place as described, the tile engagement member 106 is then free to slide and pivot relative to the extension member 104. The person using the scribing tool 100 then preferably slides the locking member 108 and tile engagement member 106 toward the projected intersection of the straight edges 308, 310 of the first 300 and second tiles 302. As this occurs, it may be necessary to pivot the extension member 104 relative to the scribe member 102, which is achieved by merely exerting an uneven force sufficient to create a torque that overcomes the threshold moment required to pivot the scribe member relative to the extension member. Additionally, during this step, the first 182 and second 184 engagement portions of the lower portion 146 of the tile engagement member 106 engage against the straight edges 308, 310 of the first 300 and second 302 tiles, respectively. Because the tile engagement member 106 is free to pivot relative to the extension member 104 when this occurs, the legs 180 of the lower portion 146 of the tile engagement member 106 automatically ~~aligned~~align themselves with the straight edges 308, 310 of the first 300 and second 302 tiles, as shown in FIG. 25, when they engage such edges. By configuring the tile engagement member 106 such that the legs 180 of the lower portion 146 of the tile engagement member 106 extend beyond the main body 170 of the lower portion, the proper alignment of the tile engagement member 106 with the edges 308, 310 of the first and second tiles can be visually verified.

[0066] While the present invention has been described in reference to a specific embodiment, in light of the foregoing, it should be understood that all matter contained in the above description or shown in the accompanying drawing figures is intended to be interpreted as illustrative and not in a limiting sense and that various modifications and variations of the invention may be constructed without departing from the scope of the invention defined by the following claims. Thus, it should be appreciated that the tile engagement portions of the locking tile engagement member need not be portions of an ~~L-Shaped~~ L-shaped protrusion, but instead could be formed by multiple protrusions of practically any shape. For example, the third and fourth tile engagement portions could comprise protrusions that create two point-contacts for engaging against the first edge of the third tile and one point-contact for engaging against the second edge of the third tile. As such, basically any configuration that would allow the tile engagement member to be aligned with both the first and second edge of the third tile could suffice. Additionally, a non-frictionally based locking and release mechanism could be incorporated between the scribe member and the extension member to allow and prevent pivotal movement therebetween. Furthermore, such a locking and release mechanism could be biased to automatically prevent such pivotal movement when released. Moreover, the locking member need not be configured as described and could be configured to operate in an entirely different manner than described. Yet further, it should be appreciated that the scribe member could comprise multiple elements that are movable relative to

each other or could even be flexibly adjustable, and that the scribe edge of the scribe member need not be a straight edge. Likewise, the locking member or the extension member could comprise multiple components. Thus, other possible variations and modifications of the claimed invention should be appreciated, but not limited.